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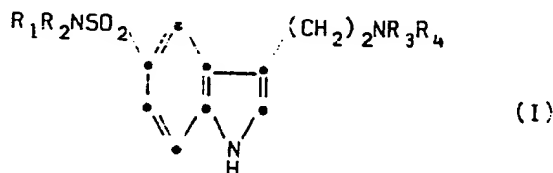
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⑤ Indole derivatives are disclosed of the formula (I) :



R₁ represents H, or C₁₋₈ alkyl or C₃₋₈ alkenyl;

R₂ represents a H, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, or a phenyl or phen(C₁₋₄)alkyl group in which the phenyl ring is optionally substituted by halogen or C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy or hydroxyl, or by a group NR^aR^b, or CONR^aR^b, wherein R^a and R^b each independently represents H or C₁₋₃ alkyl;

R₃ and R₄, each independently represents H or C₁₋₃ alkyl or 2-propenyl; and physiologically acceptable salts and solvates (e.g. hydrates) thereof.

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The compounds have potent and selective vasoconstrictor activity and are indicated as useful for the treatment of migraine. The compounds may be formulated as pharmaceutical compositions with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients for administration by any suitable means. Various methods for the preparation of the compounds are disclosed.

INDOLE DERIVATIVES

This invention relates to indole derivatives, to processes for their preparation, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them and to their medical use, in particular to compounds and compositions of use in the treatment of migraine.

The pain of migraine is associated with excessive dilatation of the cranial vasculature, and known treatments for migraine include the administration of compounds having vasoconstrictor properties, such as ergotamine. However, ergotamine is a non-selective vasoconstrictor which constricts blood vessels throughout the body and has undesirable and dangerous side effects. Migraine may also be treated by administering an analgesic, usually in combination with an antiemetic, but such treatments are of limited value.

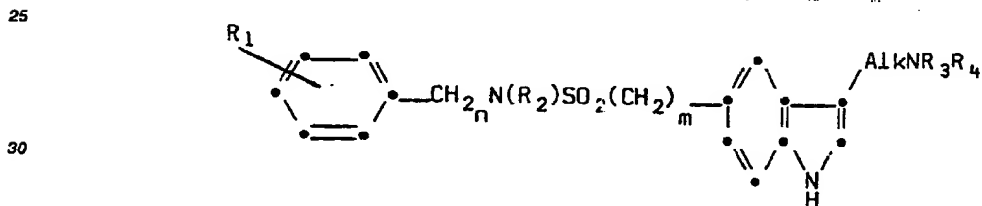
There is thus a need for a safe and effective drug for the treatment of migraine, which can be used either prophylactically or to alleviate an established headache, and a compound having a selective vasoconstrictor activity would fulfil such a role.

A number of classes of compounds having selective vasoconstrictor activity have been described.

In UK Patent Specification No. 2124210, a wide variety of indole derivatives are disclosed in which the indole 5-position substituent is a sulphonamidomethyl group which may optionally be substituted at the nitrogen atom by an alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl group. As indicated in UK Patent Specification No. 2124210, these compounds selectively constrict the carotid arterial bed of the anaesthetised dog and are thus potentially useful for the treatment of migraine.

Indole derivatives containing a C₂₅ alkyl-sulphonamide group at the indole 5-position which have selective vasoconstrictor activity are described in UK Published Patent application No. 2150932. The nitrogen atom of the sulphonamide group may be substituted by a large number of groups including a phenyl or phen(C₁₋₄)alkyl group.

European Published Patent Application No. 147107 describes indole derivatives having selective vasoconstrictor activity of formula:



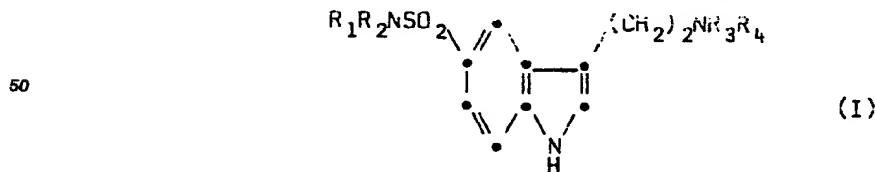
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wherein R₁ represents a halogen atom or an alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy group, or a group NR_aR_b or CONR_aR_b, where R_a and R_b, which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or alkenyl group, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached R_a and R_b form a saturated monocyclic 5 to 7-membered ring which may contain an additional heterofunction; R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl group; R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl or propenyl group or R₃ and R₄ together form an aralkylidene group; Alk represents an alkylene chain containing two or three carbon atoms which may be unsubstituted or substituted by not more than two C₁₋₃ alkyl groups; n and m, which may be the same or different each represents an integer from 1 to 4 or n may be zero; and their physiologically acceptable salts and solvates.

We have now found a novel group of indole derivatives having potent and selective vasoconstrictor activity.

45 Thus, the present invention provides an indole of the general formula (I):



wherein

R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} alkenyl group; R_2 represents a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{3-6} alkenyl or C_{5-7} cycloalkyl group, or a phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group in which the phenyl ring may be unsubstituted or substituted by a halogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy or hydroxyl group, or by a group NR^aR^b , or $CONR^aR^b$, wherein R^a and R^b , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group; R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl or 2-propenyl group; and physiologically acceptable salts and solvates (e.g. hydrates) thereof.

It will be appreciated that the invention includes within its scope geometric isomers of compounds (I) and mixtures of such isomers.

Referring to the general formula (I), the alkyl groups and the alkyl moiety of the alkoxy groups may be straight chain or branched chain alkyl groups such as for example methyl, ethyl, propyl and isopropyl groups. The alkenyl groups preferably contain 3 or 4 carbon atoms, examples of which include propenyl and butenyl groups. The cycloalkyl groups preferably contain 5 or 6 carbon atoms and examples include cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl groups. When R_2 represents a substituted phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group the substituent may be in the ortho, meta or para positions.

A preferred class of compounds represented by the general formula (I) is that wherein R_1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, for example a methyl group, or more particularly a hydrogen atom.

Another preferred class of compounds of general formula (I) is that wherein R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group, for example a methyl or ethyl group.

In the compounds of general formula (I), R_2 preferably represents a hydrogen atom or more especially an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group. Where R_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group, this will preferably be a phenylmethyl or phenylethyl group.

Where R_2 represents a phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group in which the phenyl ring is substituted by a halogen atom, the substituent may be, for example, a fluorine, chlorine or bromine atom. A C_{1-3} alkoxy substituent on a phenyl ring in a compound of general formula (I) may be, for example, a methoxy or ethoxy group. In the compounds of general formula (I) wherein R_2 represents a phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group in which the phenyl ring is substituted by an NR^aR^b or $CONR^aR^b$ group, R^a and R^b , which may be the same or different, each preferably represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

Suitable substituents on the phenyl ring in compounds of general formula (I) include, for example, methoxy and ethoxy groups.

In the compounds of general formula (I) wherein R_2 represents a substituted phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group, the substituent is preferably at the para position.

A particularly preferred group of compounds falling within the scope of general formula (I) is that wherein R_1 represents a hydrogen atom; R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; and R_2 represents a phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group which may be unsubstituted or substituted at the para position of the phenyl ring by a C_{1-3} alkoxy group.

Particularly preferred compounds of general formula (I) falling within this group are those in which R_2 represents a phenyl or phenethyl groups which may be substituted at the para position by a methoxy or ethoxy group.

Preferred compounds according to the invention include: 3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-ethyl]-*iH*-indole-5-sulphonamide; N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(methylamino)ethyl]-*iH*-indole-5-sulphonamide; and their physiologically acceptable salts and solvates (for example hydrates) thereof.

Suitable physiologically acceptable salts of the indoles of general formula (I) include acid addition salts formed with inorganic or organic acids, for example hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, nitrates, oxalates, phosphates, tartrates, citrates, fumarates, maleates, succinates, and sulphonates e.g. mesylates. Other salts may be useful in the preparation of compounds of formula (I) e.g. creatinine sulphate adducts.

It will be appreciated that the invention extends to other physiologically acceptable equivalents of the compounds according to the invention, i.e. physiologically acceptable compounds which are converted *in vivo* into the parent compound. Example of such equivalents include physiologically acceptable, metabolically labile N-acyl derivatives.

Compounds of the invention selectively constrict the carotid arterial bed of the anaesthetised dog, whilst having a negligible effect on blood pressure. The selective vasoconstrictor action of compounds of the invention has been demonstrated *in vitro*.

Compounds of the invention are useful in treating pain resulting from dilatation of the cranial vasculature, in particular migraine and cluster headache.

Accordingly, the invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition adapted for use in human medicine which comprises at least one compound (e.g. hydrate) thereof and formulated for administration by any convenient route. Such compositions may be formulated in conventional manner using one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

5 Thus the compounds according to the invention may be formulated for oral, buccal, parenteral or rectal administration or in a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation.

For oral administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may take the form of, for example, tablets or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g. pregelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); fillers (e.g. 10 lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium phosphate); lubricants (e.g. magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g. potato starch or sodium starch glycolate); or wetting agents (e.g. sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art. Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be 15 prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g. sorbitol syrup, methyl cellulose or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agents (e.g. lecithin or acacia); non-aqueous vehicles (e.g. almond oil, oily esters or ethyl alcohol); and preservatives (e.g. methyl or propyl-p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid). The liquid preparations may also contain conventional buffers, flavouring, colouring and sweetening agents as appropriate.

20 For buccal administration the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

The compound of the invention may be formulated for parenteral administration by injection or continuous infusion. Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form e.g. in ampoules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative. The compositions may take such form as suspensions, 25 solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilising and/or dispersing agents, and/or agents to adjust the tonicity of the solution. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

The compounds of the invention may also be formulated in rectal compositions such as suppositories 30 or retention enemas, e.g. containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

For administration by inhalation the compounds according to the invention are conveniently delivered in the form of an aerosol spray presentation from pressurised packs, with the use of a suitable propellant, e.g. dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide or other suitable 35 gas, or from a nebuliser. In the case of a pressurised aerosol the dosage unit may be determined by providing a valve to deliver a metered amount. Capsules and cartridges of e.g. gelatin for use in an inhaler or insufflator may be formulated containing a powder mix of a compound of the invention and a suitable powder base such as lactose or starch.

A proposed dose of the compound of the invention for oral, parenteral, buccal or rectal administration to 40 man (of average bodyweight e.g. about 70kg) for the treatment of migraine is 0.1 to 100mg of the active ingredient per unit dose which could be administered, for example, up to 8 times per day, more usually 1 to 4 times per day. It will be appreciated that it may be necessary too make routine variations to the dosage depending on the age and weight of the patient as well as the severity of the condition to be treated.

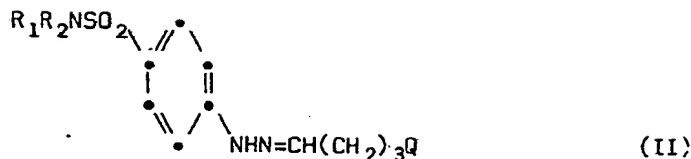
For oral administration a unit dose will preferably contain from 0.5 to 50mg e.g. 2 to 40mg of the active 45 ingredient. A unit dose for parenteral administration will preferably contain 0.2 to 5mg of the active ingredient.

Aerosol formulations are preferably arranged so that each metered dose or 'puff' delivered from a pressurised aerosol contains 0.2 to 2mg of a compound of the invention and each dose administered via capsules or cartridges in an inhaler or insufflator contains 0.2 to 20mg. The overall daily dose by inhalation 50 will be within the range 1mg to 100mg. Administration may be several times daily, for example from 2 to 8 times, giving for example 1, 2 or doses each time.

The compounds of the invention may, if desired, be administered in combination with one or more other therapeutic agents, such as analgesics, anti-inflammatory agents and anti-nauseants.

According to another aspect of the invention, compounds of formula (I), and physiologically acceptable 55 salts or solvates (e.g. hydrates) thereof, may be prepared by the general methods outlined below. In the following processes, R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are as defined for the general formula (I) unless otherwise specified.

According to one general process (A), a compound of formula (I) may be prepared by the cyclisation of a compound of general formula (II):



wherein Q is the group NR_3R_4 (or a protected derivative thereof) or a leaving atom or group such as a halogen atom (e.g. chlorine or bromine) or an acyloxy group (e.g. a carboxylic or sulphonic acyloxy group such as an acetoxy, chloroacetoxy, dichloroacetoxy, trifluoroacetoxy, p-nitrobenzoyloxy, p-toluenesulphonyloxy or methanesulphonyloxy group).

The reaction may conveniently be effected in aqueous or non-aqueous reaction media, and at temperatures of from 20 to 200°C, preferably 50 to 125°C.

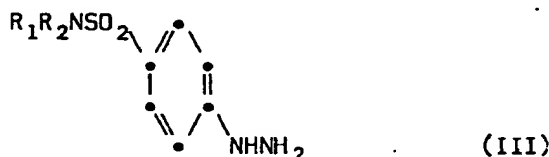
Particularly convenient embodiments of the general process (A) are described below.

When Q is the group NR_3R_4 (or a protected derivative thereof) the process is desirably carried out in the presence of polyphosphate ester in a reaction medium which may comprise one or more organic solvents, preferably halogenated hydrocarbons such as chloroform, dichloromethane, dichloroethane, dichlorodifluoromethane, or mixtures thereof. Polyphosphate ester is a mixture of esters which may be prepared from phosphorus pentoxide, diethylether and chloroform according to the method described in 'Reagents for Organic Synthesis', (Fieser and Fieser, John Wiley and Sons 1967).

Alternatively the cyclisation may be carried out in an aqueous or non-aqueous reaction medium, in the presence of an acid catalyst. when an aqueous medium is employed this may be an aqueous organic solvent such as an aqueous alcohol (e.g. methanol, ethanol or isopropanol) or an aqueous ether (e.g. dioxan or tetrahydrofuran) as well as mixtures of such solvents, and the acid catalyst may be for example, an inorganic acid such as concentrated hydrochloric or sulphuric acid or an organic acid, such as acetic acid. (In some cases the acid catalyst may also act as the reaction solvent). In an anhydrous reaction medium, which may comprise one or more ethers (e.g. as previously described) or esters (e.g. ethyl acetate), the acid catalyst will generally be a Lewis acid such as boron trifluoride, zinc chloride or magnesium chloride.

When Q is a leaving group such as a chlorine or bromine atom the reaction may be effected in an aqueous organic solvent, such as an aqueous alcohol (e.g. methanol, ethanol, or isopropanol) or an aqueous ether (e.g. dioxan or tetrahydrofuran) in the absence of an acid catalyst, conveniently at a temperature of from 20 to 200°C, preferably 50 to 125°C. This process results in the formation of a compound of formula (I) wherein R_3 and R_4 are both hydrogen atoms.

According to a particular embodiment of general process (A) compounds of formula (I) may be prepared directly by the reaction of a compound of general formula (III):



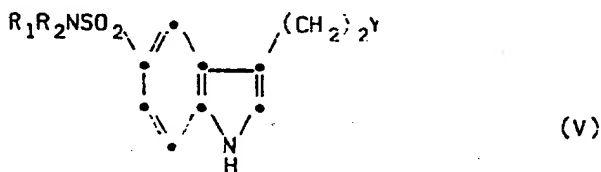
or a salt thereof,
with a compound of formula (IV):
 $\text{OHC}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{Q}$ (IV)

(wherein Q is as defined above) or a salt or protected derivative thereof (Such as an acetal or ketal e.g. formed with an appropriate alkyl orthoformate or diol, or protected as a bisulphite addition complex) using the appropriate conditions as described above for the cyclisation of compounds of general formula (II). It will be appreciated that in this embodiment of the cyclisation process (A) a compound of general formula (II) is formed as an intermediate, and may be reacted in situ to form the desired compound of general formula (I).

Compounds of general formula (II) may, if desired, be isolated as intermediates during the process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) wherein a compound of formula (III), or a salt or protected derivative thereof, is reacted with a compound of formula (IV), or a salt or protected derivative thereof, in a suitable solvent, such as an aqueous alcohol (e.g. methanol) at a temperature of, for example, 20 to 30°C. If an acetal or ketal of a compound of formula (IV) is used, it may be necessary to carry out the reaction in the presence of an acid (for example, acetic or hydrochloric acid).

Compounds of general formula (III) may be prepared for example from the corresponding nitro compounds, using conventional procedures.

A further general process (B) for preparing compounds of general formula (I) involves reacting a compound of general formula (V):



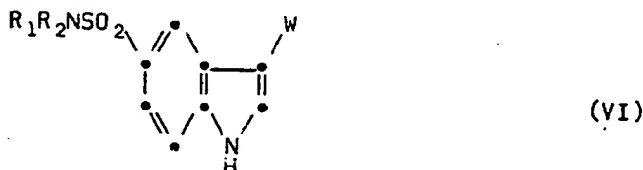
20 (wherein Y is readily displaceable group) or a protected derivative thereof, with an amine of formula R_3R_4NH .

The displacement reaction may conveniently be carried out on those compounds of formula (V) wherein the substituent group Y is a halogen atom (e.g. chlorine, bromine or iodine) or a group OR_5 where OR_5 is, for example, an acyloxy group which may be derived from a carboxylic or sulphonic acid, such as an acetoxy, chloroacetoxy, dichloroacetoxy, trifluoroacetoxy, p-nitrobenzoyloxy, p-toluenesulphonyloxy or methanesulphonyloxy group.

The displacement reaction may be conveniently effected in an inert organic solvent (optionally in the presence of water), examples of which include alcohols, e.g. ethanol; cyclic ethers, e.g. dioxan or tetrahydrofuran; acyclic ethers e.g. diethylether; esters, e.g. ethyl acetate; amides, e.g. N,N-dimethylformamide; and ketones e.g. acetone or methylethyl ketone, at a temperature of from -10 to +150°C, preferably 20 to 50°C.

35 The compounds of general formula (V) wherein Y is a halogen atom may be prepared by reacting a hydrazine of general formula (III) with an aldehyde or ketone (or a protected derivative thereof) of formula (IV) in which Q is a halogen atom, in an aqueous alcohol (e.g. methanol) containing an acid (e.g. acetic or hydrochloric acid). Compounds of formula (V) wherein Y is the group OR_5 may be prepared from the corresponding compound wherein Y is a hydroxyl group by acylation or sulphonylation with the appropriate activated species (e.g. anhydride or sulphonyl chloride) using conventional techniques. The intermediate alcohol may be prepared by cyclisation of a compound of formula (II) wherein Q is a hydroxyl group (or a protected derivative thereof) under standard conditions.

40 Compounds of formula (I) may also be prepared by another general process (C) involving reduction of a compound of general formula (VI):



50 (wherein W is a group capable of being reduced to give the required $-(CH_2)_2NR_3R_4$ group or to give a protected derivative of $-(CH_2)_2NR_3R_4$ or a salt or protected derivative thereof.

The required $-(CH_2)_2$ - and $-NR_3R_4$ groups at the 3-position may be formed by reduction steps which take place separately or together in any appropriate manner.

Examples of groups represented by the substituent W include $-(CH_2)_2NO_2$; $-CH=CHNO_2$; $-(CH_2)_2N_3$; $-CH_2CN$; $-CH_2CHO$; $-COCH_2Z$; $-CH_2CH=NOH$; $-(CH_2)_2NR_3COR_4$; $-COCONR_3R_4$; $-CH_2COZ$ and $-CH(OH)CH_2NR_3R_4$; (wherein Z is an azido group or the group $-NR_3R_4$ or a protected derivative thereof and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl or ethyl group, or R_4 represents the group OR_6 , where R_6 is an alkyl or aralkyl group).

Groups which may be reduced to the $-(CH_2)_2$ -moiety at the 3-position include the corresponding unsaturated groups and corresponding groups containing a hydroxyl group or a carbonyl function.

Groups which may be reduced to the group $-NR_3R_4$ where R_3 and R_4 are both hydrogen include nitro, azido, hydroxyimino and nitrile groups. In the latter case, reduction yields the group $-CH_2NH_2$ and thus provides a methylene group of the $-(CH_2)_2$ -moiety.

The required $-NR_3R_4$ group wherein R_3 and/or R_4 are other than hydrogen may be prepared by reduction of a nitrile $-CH_2CN$ or an aldehyde $-CH_2CHO$ in the presence of an amine, R_3R_4NH .

A particularly suitable method for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein R_3 and/or R_4 is other than hydrogen is reductive alkylation of the corresponding compound wherein R_3 and/or R_4 represent hydrogen with an appropriate aldehyde or ketone (e.g. formaldehyde or acetone) in the presence of a suitable reducing agent. In some instance (e.g. for the introduction of the group(s) R_3 and/or R_4 where these represent methyl) the aldehyde (e.g. formaldehyde) may be condensed with the amine and the intermediate thus formed subsequently be reduced using a suitable reducing agent. The required $-NR_3R_4$ group wherein R_3 and/or R_4 are other than hydrogen may also be prepared by reduction of a corresponding acylamino group e.g. of the formula $-(CH_2)_2NR_3COR_4$, where R_4 is as previously defined.

It will be appreciated that the choice of reducing agent and reaction conditions will be dependent on the nature of the group W, as well as the other groups already present on the molecule.

Suitable reducing agents which may be used in the above process for the reduction of compounds of formula (VI) wherein W represents, for example, the groups $-(CH_2)_2NO_2$, $-CH=CHNO_2$, $-(CH_2)_2N_3$, $-CH_2CN$, $-CH_2CH=NOH$ and $-CH(OH)CH_2NR_3R_4$ include hydrogen in the presence of a metal catalyst, for example Raney Nickel or a noble metal catalyst such as platinum, platinum oxide, palladium, palladium oxide or rhodium, which may be supported, for example, on charcoal, kieselguhr or alumina. In the case of Raney Nickel, hydrazine may also be used as the source of hydrogen. This process may conveniently be carried out in a solvent such as an alcohol e.g. ethanol, an ether, e.g. dioxan or tetrahydrofuran, an amide, e.g. dimethylformamide or an ester e.g. ethyl acetate, and at a temperature of from -10 to $+50^\circ C$, preferably -5 to $+30^\circ C$.

The reduction process may also be effected on compounds of formula (VI) wherein W represents, for example, the groups $-(CH_2)_2NO_2$, $-CH=CHNO_2$, $-(CH_2)_2N_3$, $-CH(OH)CH_2NR_3R_4$ or $-COCH_2Z$ (where Z is as previously defined), using an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal borohydride or cyanoborohydride e.g. sodium or calcium borohydride or cyanoborohydride which process may conveniently be carried out in an alcohol such as propanol or ethanol, or a nitrile such as acetonitrile, and at a temperature of from 10 to $100^\circ C$, preferably 50 to $100^\circ C$. In some instances the reduction using a borohydride may be carried out in the presence of cobaltous chloride.

Reductive alkylation of a compound of formula (VI) may be effected using an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal borohydride or cyanoborohydride. The reaction may be effected in an aqueous or non-aqueous reaction medium, conveniently in an alcohol (e.g. methanol or ethanol) or an ether (e.g. dioxan or tetrahydrofuran) optionally in the presence of water. The reaction may conveniently be carried out at a temperature in the range 0 to $100^\circ C$, preferably 5 to $50^\circ C$.

Compounds of formula (VI) wherein W represents, for example, $-(CH_2)_2NO_2$; $-CH=CHNO_2$; $-(CH_2)_2N_3$; $-(CH_2)_2NR_3COR_4$; $-CH_2CH=NOH$; $-CH(OH)CH_2NR_3R_4$; $-COCONR_3R_4$; $-CH_2COZ$ or $-COCH_2Z$ (where R_4 and Z are as previously defined) may also be carried out using a metal hydride such as lithium aluminium hydride. This reaction may be carried out in a solvent, for example an ether such as tetrahydrofuran, and conveniently at a temperature in the range -10 to $+100^\circ C$, preferably 50 to $100^\circ C$.

A particular embodiment of general process (C) is the reduction of a compound of formula (VI) wherein W is the group $-CH_2CN$, for example by catalytic reduction with hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst such as palladium on charcoal or rhodium on alumina, optionally in the presence of an amine HNR_3R_4 . The reduction may be effected in a suitable solvent such as an alcohol e.g. methanol or ethanol.

A compound of general formula (I) where R_4 is a hydrogen atom may also be prepared by hydrogenolysis of a corresponding compound wherein R_4 is a benzyl group, e.g. with hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst, e.g. 10% palladium on carbon.

The starting materials or intermediate compounds of formula (VI) wherein W represents $-(CH_2)_2NO_2$, $-CH=CHNO_2$, $-CH_2CN$ or $-COCH_2Z$ may be prepared by analogous methods to those described in UK Patent Specification No. 2035310, and 'A Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds - Indoles Part II', Chapter VI, edited by W J Houlihan (1972) Wiley Interscience, New York.

5 Compounds of formula (VI), wherein W is the group $-CH_2CHO$ may be prepared by oxidation (e.g. with Jones' reagent) of a compound of formula (V) wherein Y is a hydroxyl group. A compound of formula (VI) wherein W is the group $-CH_2CH=NOH$ may be prepared by treatment of the corresponding aldehyde with hydroxylamine hydrochloride using standard conditions.

The intermediate compound of formula (VI) wherein W is the group $-(CH_2)_2N_3$ may be prepared from a 10 compound of formula (V) wherein Y is a halogen atom using standard procedures.

Standard reducing agents such as sodium borohydride may be used to prepare a compound of formula (VI) wherein W is the group $-CH(OH)CH_2NR_3R_4$ from the corresponding compound of formula (VI) wherein W is the group $-COCH_2NR_3R_4$.

A compound of formula (VI) wherein X is the group $-(CH_2)_2NR_3COR_4$ may be prepared by acylation of 15 the corresponding unsubstituted amine using conventional procedures.

According to a further general process (D) a compound of formula (I) according to the invention, or a salt or protected derivative thereof, may be converted into another compound of formula (I) using conventional procedures.

For example, a compound of general formula (I) wherein one or more of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are alkyl 20 groups may be prepared from the corresponding compounds of formula (I) wherein one or more of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen atom, by reaction with a suitable alkylating agent such as a compound of formula R_xL , (where R_x represents the desired R_1 , R_2 , R_3 or R_4 group and L represents a leaving group such as a halogen atom or a tosylate group) or a sulphate $(R_x)_2SO_4$. Thus, the alkylating agent may be for example an alkyl halide (e.g. methyl or ethyl iodide), alkyl tosylate (e.g. methyl tosylate) or dialkylsulphate 25 (e.g. dimethylsulphate).

The alkylation reaction may conveniently be carried out in an inert organic solvent as an amide (e.g. dimethylformamide), an ether (e.g. tetrahydrofuran) or an aromatic hydrocarbon (e.g. toluene) preferably in the presence of a base. Suitably bases include, for example, alkali metal hydrides such as sodium or potassium hydride; alkali metal amides such as sodium amide; alkali metal carbonates such as sodium carbonate; alkali metal alkoxides such as sodium or potassium methoxide, ethoxide or t-butoxide; and tetrabutylammonium fluoride. When an alkyl halide is employed as the alkylating agent the reaction may also be carried out in the presence of an acid scavenging agent such as propylene or ethylene oxide. The reaction may be conveniently effected at a temperature of from -20° to $100^\circ C$.

Compound of formula (I) wherein one or both of R_3 and R_4 represents propenyl may be prepared 35 similarly, using an appropriate compound of formula R_xL or $(R_x)_2SO_4$.

According to another general process (E), a compound of general formula (I) according to the invention, or a salt thereof may be prepared by subjecting a protected derivative of general formula (I) or a salt thereof to reaction to remove the protecting group or groups.

Thus, at an earlier stage in the reaction sequence for the preparation of a compound of general formula 40 (I) or a salt thereof it may have been necessary or desirable to protect one or more sensitive groups in the molecule to avoid undesirable side reactions. For example it may be necessary to protect the group NR_3R_4 , wherein R_3 and/or R_4 represents hydrogen, by protonation or with a group easily removable at the end of the reaction sequence. Such groups may include, for example, aralkyl groups, such as benzyl, diphenylmethyl or triphenylmethyl; or acyl groups such as N-benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl or phthaloyl.

45 In some case, it may also be desirable to protect the indole nitrogen with, for example, an aralkyl group such as benzyl.

Subsequent cleavage of the protecting group or groups may be achieved by conventional procedures. Thus an aralkyl group such as benzyl, may be cleaved by hydrogenolysis in the presence of a catalyst (e.g. palladium on charcoal) or sodium and liquid ammonia; an acyl group such as N-benzyloxycarbonyl may be 50 removed by hydrolysis with, for example, hydrogen bromide in acetic acid or by reduction, for example by catalytic hydrogenation. The phthaloyl group may be removed by hydrazinolysis (e.g. by treatment with hydrazine hydrate) or by treatment with a primary amine (e.g. methylamine).

As will be appreciated, in some of the general processes (A) to (D) described previously it may be necessary or desirable to protect any sensitive groups in the molecule as just described. Thus, a reaction 55 step involving deprotection of a protected derivative of general formula (I) or a salt thereof may be carried out subsequent to any of the previously described processes (A) to (D).

Thus, according to a further aspect of the invention, the following reactions in any appropriate sequence may if necessary and/or desired be carried out subsequent to any of the processes (A) to (D):

- (i) removal of any protecting groups; and
- (ii) conversion of a compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof into a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate (e.g. hydrate) thereof.

Where it is desired to isolate a compound of the invention as a salt, for example as an acid addition salt, this may be achieved by treating the free base of general formula (I), with an appropriate acid, preferably with an equivalent amount, or with creatinine sulphate in a suitable solvent (e.g. aqueous ethanol).

The starting materials or intermediate compounds for the preparation of the compounds according to this invention may be prepared by analogous methods to those described in UK Patent Specification No. 2035310 and UK Patent Specification No. 2124210.

As well as being employed as the last main step in the preparative sequence, the general methods indicated above for the preparation of the compounds of the invention may also be used for the introduction of the desired groups at an intermediate stage in the preparation of the required compound. Thus, for example, the required group at the 5-position may be introduced before or after cyclisation to form the indole nucleus. It should therefore be appreciated that in such multi-stage processes, the sequence of reactions should be chosen in order that the reaction conditions do not affect groups present in the molecule which are desired in the final product.

The invention is further illustrated by the following Examples. All temperatures are in °C.

Chromatography was carried out in the conventional manner using Silica Gel (Merck, Kieselgel 60, Art. 7734) or by flash chromatography on silica (Merck 9385) and thin layer chromatography (t.l.c.) on silica (Machery-Nagel, Polygram) except where otherwise indicated.

Example 1.

3-(2-Aminoethyl)-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide, compound with creatinine sulphate and water 1:1:2

(i) 4-[2-[4-(1,3-Dihydro-1,3-dioxo-2H-isoindol-2-yl)butylidene]hydrazino]benzenesulphonamide

A solution of 4-hydrazinobenzenesulphonamide (7.5g) in 25% aqueous acetic acid (500ml) was added to phthalimidobutyraldehyde diethyl acetal (11.7g). The mixture was stirred on a steam bath for 2h and cooled to room temperature. Filtration and washing with boiling methanol (200ml) gave the product as a crystalline solid (9.4g) m.p. 191-194°C.

(ii) 3-[2-(1,3-Dihydro-1,3-dioxo-2H-isoindol-2-yl)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide

The product of stage (i) (5.0g) was added to a solution of polyphosphate ester (25g) in chloroform (50ml) and the mixture was heated at reflux for 25 min. The reaction was cooled and the chloroform evaporated. The residue was stirred with iced water (100g) for 1 h and the resultant solid was collected and washed with water (4.1g). The product was recrystallised by adding dimethylformamide to a refluxing mixture of the product in methanol (200ml) until a clear solution was obtained. Water (100ml) was then added, precipitated impurities were filtered off and the filtrate evaporated to remove methanol. The product precipitated as a solid which was dried to give the title compound m.p. 285-290°C.

Assay found C,58.1;H,4.3;N,11.4;
C₁₈H₁₅N₃O₄S requires C,58.5; H,4.1;N11.4%

(iii) 3-(2-Aminoethyl)-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide compound with creatinine sulphate and water (1:1:2)

To a suspension of the product of stage (ii) (1.85g) in ethanol (74 OP, 30ml) was added hydrazine hydrate (0.5g). The mixture was stirred between 60 and 70° for 1.5h and then cooled to room temperature. 2N Hydrochloric acid was added and the mixture was warmed between 25 and 45°C for 1h. A precipitate was filtered off and the filtrate was basified with 2N NaOH (30ml). The solution was then evaporated, and the residue taken up with methanol. A solid was filtered off and the filtrate was filtered through a column of silica (TLC grade 60g). Evaporation of the eluent gave a solid (1.2g) which was dissolved in ethanol (50ml). The solution was diluted with ether (150ml) and filtered. The filtrate was then evaporated to a foam (0.45g), which was dissolved in acetone (1ml) and creatinine sulphate (0.32g) in water (1ml) was added. The

resulting crystalline solid was filtered off and recrystallised from water to give the title compound as a solid (0.13g) m.p. 252-259°.

Assay found C,34.18;H,4.92;N,17.30

C₁₉H₁₃N₃O₂S.C₄H₇N₃O.H₂SO₄.2H₂O requires C,34.56;H,5.39;N,17.27%

Example 2

3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide compound with creatinine, sulphuric acid and water (1:1:1:1)

(i) N-[2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-nitrobenzenesulphonamide

4-Nitrobenzenesulphonyl chloride (10g) was added portionwise to a stirred solution of 4-methoxyphenethylamine (6.8g) in pyridine (40ml) and the resulting solution stirred at room temperature for 30min. The solution was partitioned between hydrochloric acid (5N, 400ml) and ethyl acetate (2x250ml). The combined extracts were washed with hydrochloric acid (5N, 100ml), sodium bicarbonate (8%, 100ml) dried -MgSO₄ and evaporated in vacuo to give an oil. The oil was purified by column chromatography eluted with hexane:ethyl acetate (2:1) to give the title compound as a solid (4.7g) m.p. 92-93°.

(ii) 4-Amino-N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]benzenesulphonamide

A solution of the product of stage (i) (4.5g) in ethanol (150ml) was hydrogenated at room temperature and pressure over 10% palladium oxide on charcoal (50% aq. paste, 0.5g) for 2h until hydrogen uptake ceased (1000ml). Chloroform (150ml) was added, and the mixture stirred until the product dissolved. The catalyst was filtered off, washed with ethanol, and the filtrate evaporated in vacuo to give a solid (3.8g). A sample (0.2g) was purified by flash chromatography eluted with chloroform:methanol (50:1) to give the title compound as a solid (0.11g). m.p. 144-146°.

(iii) 4-Hydrazino-N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]benzenesulphonamide hydrochloride

A solution of sodium nitrite (0.8g) in water (20ml) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of the product of stage (ii) (3.5g) in a mixture of concentrated hydrochloric acid (100ml) and water (100ml) keeping the temperature below -5°C. The resulting solution was stirred at about -5°C for 30min, when a solution of tin (II) chloride dihydrate (13g) in concentrated hydrochloric acid (100ml) was added. The resulting suspension was allowed to warm to room temperature over 1h. The solid was filtered off, washed with ether, and dried in vacuo to give a solid (3.0g). A sample (2g) was crystallised from a mixture of methanol and isopropyl acetate to give the title compound as a solid (0.9g) m.p. 208-209°.

(iv) 3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide compound with creatinine, sulphuric acid, and water (1:1:1:1)

A solution of the product of stage (iii) (1.0g) in a mixture of ethanol (90ml) and water (10ml) containing 4-chlorobutanol, dimethyl acetal (0.4ml) was heated at reflux for 18h, cooled, and evaporated in vacuo to give an oil which was purified by flash chromatography eluted with dichloromethane:ethanol:aqueous ammonia (25:8:1) to give the title compound free base as an oil (0.13g). The oil was dissolved in a hot mixture of ethanol (9ml) and water (1ml) and an aqueous solution of creatinine and sulphuric acid (1:1, 2M, 0.2ml) added. Filtration of the cooled mixture gave the title compound as a solid (0.17g) m.p. 174-177°. T.l.c. Silica:Dichloromethane-ethanol-aqueous ammonia (25:8:1) det u.v. + IPA Rf = 0.4
Analysis found: C,45.9;H,5.6;N,13.5.
C₁₉H₁₂N₃O₆S.C₄H₇O.H₂OS₄.H₂O requires C,45.8;H,5.7;N,13.9%.

Example 3

3-[2-(Dimethylamino)ethyl]-N-[2-(methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide oxalate

Aqueous formaldehyde (40% w/v, 0.75ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the product of Example 2, as the free base (0.7g) in n-propanol (20ml) at 0°C, and the resulting solution stirred at 0°C for 30 min. Sodium borohydride (0.76g) was added, and the mixture stirred at 0°C for 2h. Hydrochloric acid (2N, 50ml) was added, the resulting solution basified (Na₂CO₃) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2x75ml). The combined extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give an oil which was purified by flash chromatography eluted with dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonia (50:8:1) to give pure title compound free base as an oil (0.2g). This was dissolved in a solution of oxalic acid (0.032g) in absolute ethanol (3ml) and the salt precipitated by adding ethyl acetate (20ml) and dry ether (100ml). The salt was filtered off, and dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a solid (0.08g) m.p. 187-190°. T.l.c. Silica: Dichloromethane-ethanol-aqueous ammonia solution (50:8:1) det u.v. + IPA Rf = 0.3. Analysis found C, 54.7; H, 6.05; N, 8.1. C₂₁H₂₇N₃O₅S · C₂H₂O₄ · 8H₂O requires C, 54.6; H, 6.1; N, 8.3%

Example 43-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride hydrate

(i) 4-[2-[4-(1,3-Dihydro-1,3-dioxo-2H-isoindol-2-yl)butylidene]-hydrazino]-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-benzenesulphonamide

A solution of 4-hydrazino-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)benzenesulphonamide hydrochloride (1.2g) in 25% aqueous acetic acid (100ml) was added to phthalimidobutylaldehyde diethyl acetal (1g). The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 1h, basified (sodium carbonate) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100ml). The combined organic extracts were dried and evaporated *in vacuo* to give a solid which gave the title compound (1.5g) on trituration with ethyl acetate, m.p. 156-158°.

(ii) 3-[2-(1,3-Dihydro-1,3-dioxo-2H-isoindol-2-yl)ethyl]-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide

A solution of the product of stage (i) (0.3g) in chloroform (15ml) containing polyphosphate ester (3ml) was heated at reflux for 3h, where upon a further portion of the ester solution (2ml) was added. After a further 3h, chloroform (10ml) and ester (30ml) were added, and the resulting mixture stirred at room temperature for 1h. The resulting suspension was filtered to give the title compound as a solid (0.09g) t.l.c. Silica: Diethylether det UV + Ce^{IV} Rf = 0.45 (major) 0.5, 0.4 (minor).

(iii) 3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride hydrate (4:4:3)

A solution of the product of stage (ii) (1.7g) in ethanol (100ml) containing hydrazine hydrate (2ml) was heated at reflux for 2h, cooled and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was partitioned between sodium carbonate (2N, 50ml) and ethyl acetate (2 x 50ml) and the combined organic extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give an oil which was purified by flash chromatography eluted with dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonium hydroxide (20:5:0.2) to give the title compound free base as an oil. The oil was dissolved in methanol (10ml) ethereal hydrogen chloride (3ml) added, and the salt precipitated by the addition of excess dry ether (300ml). The salt was filtered off and dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a solid (0.26g) m.p. 130-133°. Analysis Found : C, 52.9; H, 5.7; N, 10.0; C₁₈H₂₁N₃O₃S · HCl · 0.75H₂O requires C, 52.8; H, 5.7; N, 10.3%

Example 5

3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-phenyl-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide maleate hydrate (4:4:1)(i) 4-[2-[4-(1,3-Dihydro-1,3-dioxo-2H-isoindol-2-yl)butylidene]hydrazino]-N-phenyl benzenesulphonamide

6 Finely-divided phthalimidobutyraldehyde diethyl acetal (0.5g) was added to a stirred solution of 4-hydrazino-N-phenyl-benzenesulphonamide (0.5g) in 25% aqueous acetic acid (50ml). After 30 min, the solution was basified (Na_2CO_3) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50ml). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give oil which was purified by flash chromatography eluted with ether to give the title compound as a solid (0.3g) m.p. 126-129°.

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(ii) 3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-phenyl-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide maleate hydrate (4:4:1)

A solution of the product of stage (i) (5.08g) in glacial acetic acid (40ml) containing boron trifluoride, etherate (6.7ml) was heated on a steam bath for 15 min, cooled, diluted with water (200ml) basified -
 15 (Na_2CO_3) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 200ml). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give crude 3-[2-(1,3-dihydro-1,3-dioxo-2H-isoindol-2-yl)ethyl]-N-phenyl-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide as a foam (4.8g). The foam was suspended in ethanol (100ml) containing hydrazine hydrate (5ml), heated at reflux for 2h, cooled, the ethanol removed *in vacuo* and the residue partitioned
 20 between sodium carbonate (2N, 150ml) and ethyl acetate (2 x 150ml). The combined organic extracts were dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give a foam which was purified by flash chromatography eluted with dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonium hydroxide (20:5:0.2) to give the title compound free base (0.57g) as a solid. The free base was dissolved in a solution of maleic acid (0.21g) in methanol (10ml), and the salt precipitated by the addition of ethyl acetate (100ml) and dry ether (300ml). The salt was filtered off and
 25 dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a solid. (0.55g) m.p. 145-147°

Assay Found : C,54.9;H,4.8;N,9.4;

 $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{S} \cdot \text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_4 \cdot 0.25\text{H}_2\text{O}$ requires : C,55.1;H,4.9;N,9.6%30 Example 6N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride hydrate(i) Phenylmethyl [2-[5-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)amino]sulphonyl]-1H-indole-3-yl]ethyl]carbamate

35

Benzyl chloroformate (1.55ml) was added portionwise to a stirred solution of the product of Example 4 (4.3g) in a mixture of ethyl acetate (100ml) and sodium carbonate (2N, 100ml) and the resulting mixture stirred at room temperature for 1h. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (100ml), the organic
 40 extracts combined, washed with hydrochloric acid (1N, 100ml), sodium carbonate (2N, 100ml) dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give an oil. The oil was purified by flash chromatography eluted with chloroform:methanol (19:1) to give the title compound as a foam which collapsed to a gum (2.4g) T.l.c. Silica, Chloroform-methanol (19:1) det. u.v. + Ce^{IV} Rf 0.34

45 (ii) N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride hydrate

A solution of the product of stage (i) (0.5g) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10ml) was added dropwise, under nitrogen to a stirred suspension of lithium aluminium hydride (0.2g) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20ml). When the addition was complete, the resulting suspension was heated at reflux for 1h, cooled in ice, and excess
 50 reducing agent decomposed by cautious addition of 10% aqueous tetrahydrofuran. Brine (50ml) and ethyl acetate (50ml) were added, the mixture filtered and the aqueous layer extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 20ml). The combined extracts were dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo* to give an oil which was purified by flash chromatography eluted with dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonium hydroxide (50:25:1) to give the title compound free base as an oil. The oil was dissolved in absolute ethanol (10ml) acidified with
 55 ethanolic hydrogen chloride, and the salt precipitated by addition of excess dry ether (200ml). The salt was filtered off, and dried *in vacuo* at 60° overnight to give the title compound as a solid (0.19g) m.p. 116-120°.

Assay Found : C,53.65;H,5.8;N,9.6;

 $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S} \cdot \text{HCl} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ requires C,53.3;H,6.1;N,9.8%

Example 7N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(ethylamino)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride5 (i) N-[2-[5-[[4-Ethoxyphenyl]amino]sulphonyl]-1H-indole-3-yl]ethyl] acetamide

Acetyl chloride (0.6ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the product of Example 4 (3.1g) in dry dimethylformamide (20ml) containing triethylamine (3.3ml) and the resulting suspension stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The suspension was partitioned between hydrochloric acid (2N, 100ml) and ethyl acetate (2 x 100ml) and the combined extracts were washed with sodium carbonate (2N, 100ml) dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated in vacuo to give an oil. The oil was purified by flash chromatography eluted with chloroform:methanol (19:1) to give the title compound as a foam (0.8g), a sample of which (0.4g) was crystallised from a mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane to give the title compound as a crystalline solid (0.3g) m.p. 173-175°.

15 (ii) N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(ethylamino)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride

A solution of the product of stage (i) (0.4g) in tetrahydrofuran (10ml) was added dropwise, under nitrogen, to a stirred suspension of lithium aluminium hydride (0.4g) in tetrahydrofuran (20ml) and the resulting suspension stirred at reflux for 18h. The suspension was cooled, and excess reducing agent decomposed by cautious addition of 10% aqueous tetrahydrofuran. The mixture was partitioned between sodium carbonate (2N, 50ml) and ethyl acetate (2 x 50ml) and the combined extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated in vacuo to give an oil. The oil was purified by flash chromatography eluted with dichloromethane:ethanol:ammonia (50:8:1) to give the title compound free base as oil (about 0.15g). The free base was dissolved in absolute ethanol (2ml) acidified with ethereal hydrogen chloride, and the salt precipitated by the addition of excess dry ether (about 100ml). The salt was filtered off, and dried in vacuo to give the title compound as a solid (0.15g) m.p. 107-110°.

Analysis Found : C,55.4;H,6.0;N,9.4.

30 C₂₂H₂₅N₃O₃S.HCl.O.5H₂O requires C,55.5;H,6.3;N,9.7%.

Example 835 3-[20(Dimethylamino)ethyl]-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride(i) Phenylmethyl methyl[2-[5-[[4-ethoxyphenyl] amino]sulphonyl]-1H-indol-3-yl]ethyl]carbamate

Benzyl chloroformate (1.0ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the product of Example 6 (2.8g) in dimethylformamide (25ml) containing triethylamine (2.0ml) and the resulting suspension stirred at room temperature for 15 min. The suspension was partitioned between 2N hydrochloric acid (10ml) and ethyl acetate (2 x 100ml). The combined extracts were washed with 2N sodium carbonate (100ml), water (100ml) dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated in vacuo to give an oil which was purified by flash chromatography eluted with chloroform:methanol (50:1) (R_f 0.23) to give the title compound as a foam (1.4g). A sample (0.5g) was further purified by flash chromatography eluted with hexane-ethyl acetate (1:1) to give pure title compound as a gum, which crystallised on standing.

50 (ii) 3-[2-(Dimethylamino)ethyl]-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride

A solution of the product of stage (i) (0.9g) in tetrahydrofuran (15ml) was added dropwise, under nitrogen, to a stirred suspension of lithium aluminium hydride (0.5g) in tetrahydrofuran (10ml) and the resulting mixture heated at reflux for 16h. The mixture was cooled and excess reducing agent decomposed by cautious addition of 10% aqueous tetrahydrofuran. The resulting mixture was partitioned between sodium carbonate (2N, 75ml) and ethyl acetate (2 x 50ml) and the combined extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated in vacuo to give the title compound free base as an oil. The oil was dissolved in absolute ethanol (10ml) acidified with ethereal hydrogen chloride and the salt precipitated by addition of excess dry ether (150ml). the salt was filtered off, and dried in vacuo to give the title compound as a solid (0.42g), m.p.

119-121°.

T.l.c. Silica: Dichloromethane-ethanol-aqueous ammonia solution (50:8:1) det u.v. + IPA Rf = 0.3

Analysis Found : C,54.4;H,6.2;N,9.3.

C₂₀H₂₅N₃O₃S.HCl.H₂O requires C,54.3;H,6.4;N,9.5%

- 5 The following example illustrates a pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention containing N-(Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide hydrochloride hydrate as the active ingredient. Other compounds of the invention may be formulated in a similar manner.

Tablets for Oral Administration

15

20

25

	<u>mg/tablet</u>
Active ingredient	10
Magnesium stearate BP	0.5
Anhydrous Lactose	99

The active ingredient is sieved and blended with the anhydrous lactose and magnesium stearate. The mix is then compressed into tablets using a Manesty F₃ tablet machine fitted with 8.0mm concave punches.

30

Claims

1. Compounds of the general formula (I):

35



40

wherein

R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₃₋₆ alkenyl group;

- 45 R₂ represents a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenyl or C₅₋₇ cycloalkyl group, or a phenyl or phen(C₁₋₄)-alkyl group in which the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy or hydroxyl group, or by a group NR^aR^b, or CONR^aR^b, wherein R^a and R^b, which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl group; R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different each represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl or 2-propenyl group;

50 and physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

2. Compounds according to claim 1, wherein, in the general formula (I), R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

3. Compounds according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, in the general formula (I), R₂ represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or phen(C₁₋₄)alkyl group.

- 55 4. Compounds according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein, in the general formula (I), R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl group.

5. Compounds according to claim 1, wherein in the general formula (I), R_1 represents a hydrogen atom; R_2 represents a phenyl or phenyl(C₁₋₂) alkyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted at the para position of the phenyl ring by a C₁₋₃ alkoxy group; R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

6. Compounds according to claim 5, wherein, in the general formula (I), R_2 represents a phenyl or phenethyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted at the para position of the phenyl ring by a methoxy or ethoxy group.

7. Compounds selected from:-

3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide;

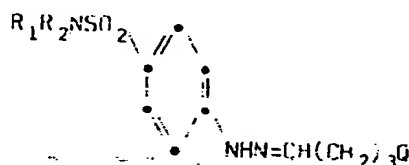
10 N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide;
and the physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

8. Compounds according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the physiologically acceptable salts are selected from hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, nitrates, oxalates, phosphates, tartrates, citrates, fumarates, maleates, succinates and sulphonates.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound selected from compounds of general formula (I) as defined in claim 1 and physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof together with at least one physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient.

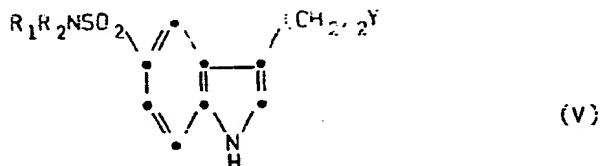
10. A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof which comprises:

20 (A) cyclising a compound of general formula (II):



30 wherein Q is the group NR_3R_4 (or a protected derivative thereof) or a leaving atom or group, and R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are as defined in claim 1; or

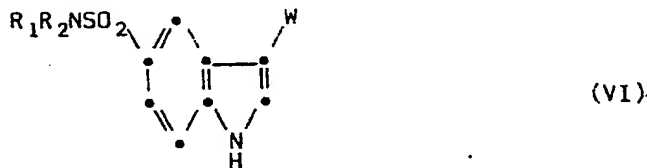
(B) reacting a compound of general formula (V):



wherein Y is a readily displaceable group, and R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 1, or a protected derivative thereof,

with an amine of formula R_3R_4NH , wherein R_3 and R_4 are as defined in claim 1; or

45 (C) reducing a compound of general formula (VI):



55 wherein W is a group capable of being reduced to give the required $-(CH_2)_2NR_3R_4$ group or to give a protected derivative of $-(CH_2)_2NR_3R_4$ and R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are as defined in claim 1, or a salt or protected derivative thereof; or

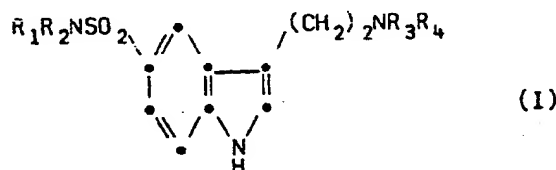
(D) subjecting one compound of general formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof or a protected derivative thereof to an interconversion reaction to form another compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof, or a protected derivative thereof; and if necessary and/or desired subjecting the resulting compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof or a protected derivative thereof to one or two further

reactions comprising

- (i) removing any protecting group or groups;
- (ii) converting a compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof into a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

Claims for the following contracting states: Austria and Spain

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I)



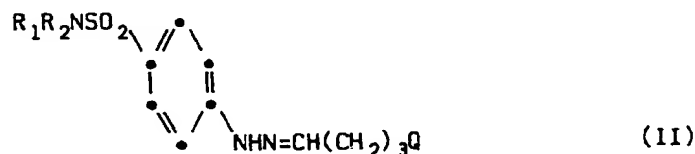
wherein

R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₃₋₆ alkenyl group;

R₂ represents a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenyl or C₅₋₇ cycloalkyl group, or a phenyl or phen(C₁₋₄)-alkyl group in which the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy or hydroxyl group, or by a group NR^aR^b, or CONR^aR^b, wherein R^a and R^b, which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl group; R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different each represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃ alkyl or 2-propenyl group;

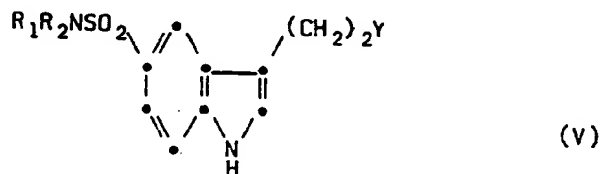
or a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof which comprises:

(A) cyclising a compound of general formula (II):



wherein Q is the group NR₃R₄ (or a protected derivative thereof) or a leaving atom or group, and R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are as defined for formula (I); or

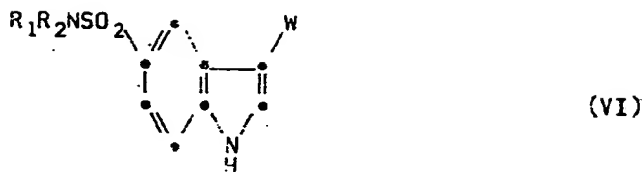
(B) reacting a compound of general formula (V):



wherein Y is a readily displaceable group, and R₁ and R₂ are as defined for formula (I), or a protected derivative thereof,

with an amine of formula R₃R₄NH, wherein R₃ and R₄ are as defined for formula (I); or

(C) reducing a compound of general formula (VI):



10 wherein W is a group capable of being reduced to give the required $-(CH_2)_2NR_3R_4$ group or to give a protected derivative of $-(CH_2)_2NR_3R_4$ and R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are as defined for formula (I), or a salt or protected derivative thereof; or

(D) subjecting one compound of general formula (I) or salt thereof or a protected derivative thereof to an interconversion reaction to form another compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof, or a protected derivative thereof; and if necessary and/or desired subjecting the resulting compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof or a protected derivative thereof to one or two further reactions comprising
 15 (i) removing any protecting group or groups;
 (ii) converting a compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof into a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein, in the general formula (I), R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, in the general formula (I), R_2 represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or phen(C_{1-4})alkyl group.

4. A process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein, in the general formula (I), R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group.

25 5. A process according to claim 1, wherein in the general formula (I), R_1 represents a hydrogen atom; R_2 represents a phenyl or phen(C_{1-2}) alkyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted at the para position of the phenyl ring by a C_{1-3} alkoxy group; R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

6. A process according to claim 5, wherein, in the general formula (I), R_2 represents a phenyl or phenethyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted at the para position of the phenyl ring by a methoxy or ethoxy group.

7. A process according to claim 1, wherein the product is selected from:-
 3-(2-Aminoethyl)-N-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-indole-5-sulphonamide;
 N-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-3-[2-(methylamino)ethyl]-1 H-indole-5-sulphonamide;
 35 and the physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

8. A process according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the product is recovered as a physiologically acceptable salt selected from hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, nitrates, oxalates, phosphates, tartrates, citrates, fumarates, maleates, succinates and sulphonates.

9. A process according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein in step (A) the cyclisation reaction is effected in an aqueous or non-aqueous reaction medium at a temperature of from 20 to 200°C.

10. A process according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein in step (B) the reaction is effected in an inert organic solvent at a temperature of from -10 to +150°C.